



*You depend on it . . .
It depends on you . . .*

Newsletter of the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Task Force

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Barnes County SCD Named "National District of the Year" for Education

submitted by Karen Olstad, Barnes County Soil Conservation District



Pictured are: (back row) Supervisor Ben Jacob; Eco-Ed Coordinator and District Technician Jim Hannig; Supervisors Richard Nordquist, Emil Hass, Jr., and Gene Klein; (front) Asst. Coordinator and Office Manager Karen Olstad; and Supervisor Diane Olson.

The Barnes County Soil Conservation District, headquartered in Valley City, N.D., recently was honored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) as "National District of the Year" for its education program.

In February 2002, Barnes County SCD supervisors and staff traveled to NACD's annual meeting in Reno, Nev., to receive the award. In

addition to the national recognition, the district also received a \$1,000 cash award.

Barnes County SCD was named the North Dakota District of the Year for 2001 and subsequently was entered in the national competition. About 3,000 conservation districts nationwide are eligible to receive this award.

The Barnes County SCD coordinates

North Dakota Eco-Ed camps to help educators, parents and students become more aware of their role in the responsible management of natural resources. The one- or two-day camps are considered mandatory classroom time by the schools and are provided at no cost to the school system or to the students. All topics -- grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, soils and water -- are presented with an emphasis on water quality as required by federal Section 319 grant guidelines.

At this time, 33 North Dakota counties participate annually in the Eco-Ed Program, as does the North Dakota Wildlife Federation, which bases its summer camp program on Eco-Ed criteria. An Eco-Ed camp for adults also is provided during the summer months. To date, 18,000 North Dakota students have attended Eco-Ed camps.

In addition to Eco-Ed, Barnes County SCD sponsors other educational programs, such as the North Dakota

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Envirothon; Project Wet and Project Wild – teacher education; 4-H Conservation Camp; Soil Stewardship Program with county churches; Backyard Conservation; soil health workshops for producers and business people; and displays at the North Dakota Winter Show, North Dakota Education Association, Wildlife Federation and North Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

The Barnes County SCD has purchased and restored a riparian area for use by the public as an outdoor classroom and canoeing access to the Sheyenne River. Three ag-waste systems have been completed using EPA Section 319 funds, and public tours at those sites have been conducted.

The District works closely with its state and federal legislators to keep them advised of conservation needs in North Dakota.

Upcoming Events



March 7-17, 2002 — North Dakota Winter Show, Valley City, N.D.
Stop in and visit the NPS Booth!

May 30-June 1, 2002 — North Dakota/Manitoba Joint Envirothon —
International Peace Garden

June 23-28, 2002 — Project WET — Lewis & Clark Big Muddy:
Missouri River Cultural History Institute, Washburn, N.D.

July 22-26, 2002 — Project WET — Summer Water Quality Institute for
Teachers, Washburn, N.D.

*Please contact Jim Collins at 701.328.5161 for more information
about any of these events.*

Plan Now for New Projects

Each year, the North Dakota Department of Health is eligible to receive approximately \$5 million in Section 319 funding to support state and local nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects. These projects may include water quality assessments, "one-on-one" planning assistance for producers, best management practice cost-sharing, and public education. The specific goals, objectives, and costs of each project are described in detail in the project implementation plans (PIPs). PIPs and associated Section 319 funding requests are evaluated by the Department of Health and the NPS Pollution Task Force during an annual review held every October.

Development of local Section 319 PIPs takes a considerable amount of time and effort. Activities preceding the actual writing of the PIP may include securing partnerships, soliciting matching funds, identifying NPS pollution management needs, surveying producers, etc. Depending upon its complexity, it may not be too late to have your project considered in this year's review. For assistance or to obtain more information about Section 319 funding, contact Greg Sandness or Jim Collins at 701.328.5210.



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Nine Projects Approved for FY 2002 Section 319 Funding

The North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Task Force has approved and forwarded to EPA nine project proposals for Fiscal Year 2002 Section 319 funding. The following paragraphs summarize those projects.

North Dakota Groundwater Sensitivity Mapping Project

Lead project sponsor: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Project type: Groundwater

Project area: Active and future 319 watershed project areas and areas of intensive agricultural pesticide usage in North Dakota.

FY2002 funds requested: \$393,000

Description: This four-year project will accelerate the completion of the soil survey geographical database for the remaining published soil surveys in North Dakota. These soil databases, available through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will serve as a valuable resource for many uses (e.g., Groundwater Protection Program, Endangered Species Program, Dairy Pollution Prevention Program, watershed management/modeling, soil/water conservation planning, surface water protection, animal waste systems, wetland inventories, climate modeling and pollution potential modeling).



North Dakota State Waterbank Program

Lead project sponsor: North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Project type: Watershed

Project area: Active and future 319 watershed project areas and the Devils Lake watershed.

FY2002 funds requested: \$300,000

Description: This program offers landowners an incentive to restore or enhance wetlands and their associated uplands. Ten-year agreements would be established. An initial payment would be made to the landowners not to use the land for agricultural purposes for the length of the agreement. Cropland would be planted to a grass mix as recommended by the USDA-NRCS.

By matching available state waterbank funding, approximately 24 agreements could be signed with landowners in the Section 319 watershed project areas to set aside an additional 2,320 acres for wetland conservation.

Hay Creek Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project – Phase V

Lead project sponsors: City of Bismarck, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, Burleigh County Water Resource District

Project type: Watershed

Project area: Hay Creek watershed in Bismarck

FY2002 funds requested: \$512,505

Description: The Hay Creek Water Quality Project will restore and improve the aquatic ecosystem and water quality of Hay Creek in Bismarck. The project will provide a

safe and healthy environment for recreational users of Hay Creek and its associated corridor. The specific goal of Phase V is to construct best management practices (BMPs) from Pebble Creek Golf Course to Bismarck Expressway.

Phase V will implement the Hay Creek Corridor plan that integrates the objectives of responsible residential and commercial development, water quality improvement, recreation, aesthetics, economics, natural feature protection and stormwater management in the watershed.

Livestock Waste Educational and Assistance Program

Lead project sponsor: North Dakota State University Extension Service

Project type: I&E (information & education)

Project area: Statewide

FY2002 funds requested: \$717,606

Description: A program will be developed to deliver educational materials and one-on-one assistance to livestock producers to implement manure management practices. This will reduce the impacts of animal feeding operations to surface water, ground water and air quality. The program will focus on livestock systems that have less than 1000 animal units.

Two livestock waste management extension specialists will be hired. One specialist will be located at the Carrington Research Station in central North Dakota, and the other

(319 Projects ... cont. on page 4)

will be located in Dickinson in western North Dakota.

The project will also work with the existing Section 319 projects that have identified livestock waste components. Because of the time involved with manure management changes, a timeframe of at least five years is recommended to achieve the best possible results.

NPS BMP Team

Lead project sponsor: South Central Dakota Regional Council

Project type: Watershed

Project area: James and Sheyenne river basins

FY2002 funds requested: \$537,526

Description: The primary goal of this proposal is to provide timely engineering assistance to Section 319 project sponsors for the accelerated implementation of BMPs in the James and Sheyenne River basins and/or within the nine counties of the South Central Dakota RC&D. Agricultural producers within Section 319 watersheds

need timely assistance in the design of structural and nonstructural BMPs that will improve water quality in their watersheds. This will be accomplished through the continued employment of the NPS BMP Team. The team consists of a licensed professional engineer and a civil engineering technician.

Lower Pipestem Creek Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

Lead project sponsors: Stutsman, Foster and Wells county soil conservation districts

Project type: Watershed

Project area: Lower Pipestem Creek watershed below the Sykeston Reservoir.

FY2002 funds requested: \$877,470

Description: This project proposes to restore the recreational and aquatic uses of the Lower Pipestem Creek in Stutsman, Foster and Wells counties. This will be accomplished by reducing erosion/

sediment levels on 75 percent of the 78,260 acres of cropland and 29,770 acres of pasture/rangeland. In addition, there are about 3,000 linear feet of eroded streambank needing attention.

This goal can be accomplished by providing financial and technical assistance for conservation planning, implementing BMPs, and promoting a strong information and education program.

Cottonwood Creek Watershed

Lead project sponsor: LaMoure County Soil Conservation District

Project type: Watershed

Project area: Cottonwood Creek watershed

FY2002 funds requested: \$667,322

Description: The primary goal of this project is to improve the fishery and recreational uses of Lake LaMoure and the biological integrity of Cottonwood Creek and the James River. Initial efforts focused on the Berlin subwatershed of Cottonwood Creek and on Lake LaMoure. Based upon the 1995 Lake LaMoure Water Quality Assessment Project results, this subwatershed is the highest contributor of NPS pollution within Cottonwood Creek.

To reduce the cumulative effects of nutrients and sediments, LaMoure County SCD will provide financial and technical assistance for farm unit conservation planning and will expand its information and education program to place more emphasis on specific NPS pollution issues.



Rocky Run Watershed Project

Lead project sponsor: Wells County
Soil Conservation District

Project type: Watershed

Project area: James River headwaters, Rocky Run Creek watershed

FY2002 funds requested: \$695,999

Description: The primary goal of the project is to improve water quality conditions within the Rocky Run Creek and its associated watershed by reducing nutrients and sediments originating on agricultural land. This will be accomplished by providing financial and technical assistance for conservation planning and BMP installation, as well as through information and education activities focusing on local NPS issues.

Upper Sheyenne Watershed -- Phase III

Lead project sponsor: Wells County
SCD

Project type: Watershed

Project area: Harvey Reservoir watershed, a part of the Upper Sheyenne watershed, which is located in Wells and Sheridan counties in central North Dakota.

FY2002 funds requested: \$599,179

Description: The primary goal for Phase III of the Upper Sheyenne Watershed Project is to restore the recreational and aquatic uses of Harvey Reservoir, the Sheyenne River and the watershed by reducing the delivery rate of nutrients from animal feeding areas and grazing lands

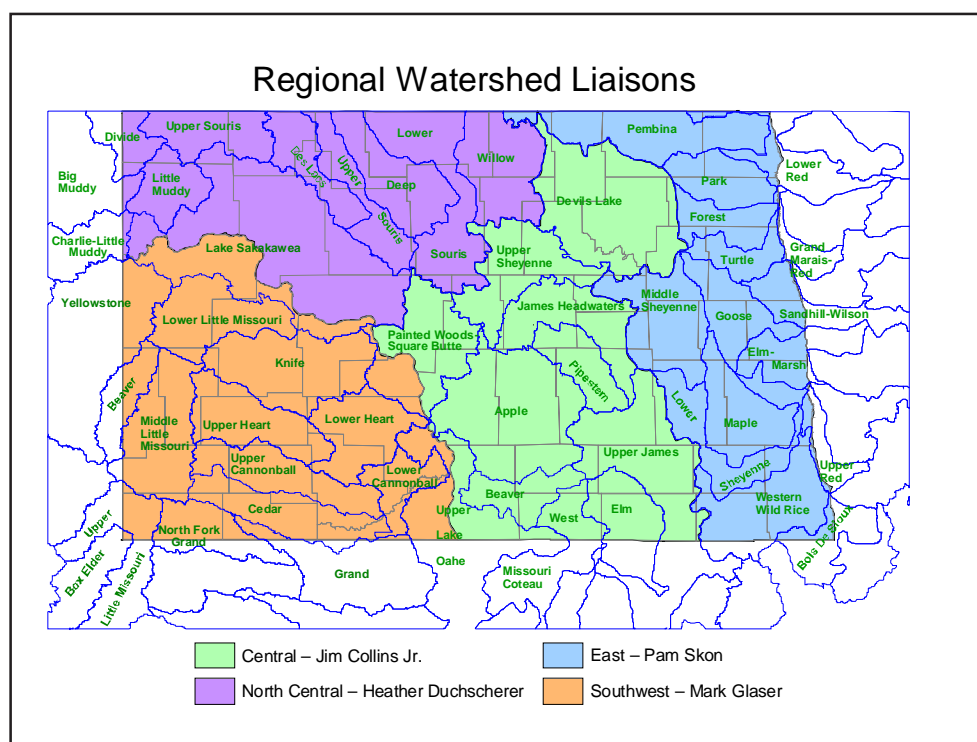
by 30 percent. To achieve this goal, project sponsors will provide financial and technical assistance for conservation planning and BMP implementation, as well as I&E activities focusing on livestock manure management and grazing land/riparian area management.



North Dakota Department of Health Introduces Watershed Liaisons

The North Dakota Department of Health -- Division of Water Quality is expanding its approach to watershed management in North Dakota. The division's Surface Water Quality Management Program has added three new staff members to serve as regional watershed liaisons. Through the use of liaisons, the division hopes to increase the involvement of soil conservation and water resource districts and local stakeholders in developing watershed projects.

The liaisons will help develop and prepare Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired water bodies. TMDLs specify the maximum load of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still meet the State Water Quality Standards. For waterbodies



(Liaisons...cont. on page 6)

not meeting state standards, a TMDL must be developed for each pollutant that is causing a standards violation, and pollutant-reduction goals must be set. The TMDLs developed by the regional liaisons will help strengthen locally led efforts to improve water quality.

Another primary duty of the regional liaisons will be to assist local sponsors in the development and implementation of Section 319 nonpoint source pollution management projects.

Three individuals fill the liaison positions, which are located in offices throughout the state. Pam Skon, who staffs the eastern office located in Fargo, will be responsible primarily for activities in the Red River basin. The southwestern office, located in

Dickinson, is staffed by Mark Glaser, who will lead activities in the Missouri River basin. Heather Duchscherer, the north central regional liaison based in Towner, is responsible for the Souris River basin and northern Missouri River basin. Jim Collins Jr., an environmental scientist with the Department of Health in Bismarck, will work with projects in the central region of the state and coordinate the liaison project.

Individuals or groups interested in sponsoring or initiating a watershed improvement project are encouraged to contact Jim Collins Jr. or the watershed liaison in their area.
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